

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 04107 111336Z POSS DUPE
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-01 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02
USIA-15 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 IO-13
LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CEA-01
PA-02 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-05 H-02 /106 W
-----111954Z 124826 /53

R 111326Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1487
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY KE HAGUE

UNCLAS LONDON 04107

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, ETRD, UK, UNCTAD
SUBJECT: SELECT COMMITTEE CRITICIZES HMG ON INTER-
NATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

1. THE SECOND REPORT FROM THE HOUSE OF COMMONS SELECT
COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT WAS PUBLISHED MARCH 10.
IT ACCUSES THE GOVERNMENT OF BEING OUT OF TOUCH WITH WORK
BEING DONE IN OTHER COUNTRIES ON QUESTIONS OF INTER-
NATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT. THE FINANCIAL TIMES DES-
CRIBES THE "VERY STRONGLY WORDED" LANGUAGE OF THE REPORT,
WHICH IS DIRECTED SPECIFICALLY AGAINST THE DEPARTMENT OF
TRADE AND THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT. AS PAR-
TICULARLY SEVERE. "THERE IS NO EVIDENCE," THE REPORT
SAYS, "OF A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE EMANATING FROM HMG. THERE
IS EVIDENCE OF TIMIDITY, OF CAUTION, OF CONFUSION, OF
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PAGE 02 LONDON 04107 111336Z POSS DUPE

DELAY, OF AN OVER-READINESS TO BE IMPRESSED BY THE UN-
DOUBTED DIFFICULTIES, AND IN SOME WAYS WORST OF ALL, A
TOTAL FAILURE TO FOLLOW THROUGH THE INITIATIVE OF KING-
STON."

2. THE REPORT ALSO CLAIMS THAT THE GAP BETWEEN BRITAIN
AND A NUMBER OF OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, WHICH BECAME

EVIDENT AT UNCTAD IN NAIROBI LAST MAY, HAS WIDENED. "YOUR COMMITTEE," THE REPORT SAYS, "WERE ASTONISHED TO DISCOVER THAT DEPARTMENTAL WITNESSES WERE NOT EVEN DIMLY AWARE OF THE CONTINUING WORK UNDERTAKEN BY THE GROUP OF PROGRESSIVE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES OVER THE PAST NINE MONTHS." THE REPORT MAINTAINS THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL CALCULATION OF THE COST AND BENEFITS WHICH BRITAIN MUST CONSIDER IN DECIDING WHETHER TO SUPPORT COMMODITY STABILIZATION SCHEMES.

3. THE FINANCIAL TIMES ALSO REFERS TO THE REPORT IN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "NEW LINE NEEDED AT UNCTAD." IT DESCRIBES THE POSITION THE EC IS TAKING AT THE UNCTAD COMMON FUND MEETING IN GENEVA THIS WEEK. IT SAYS THAT IF THE EC'S JOINT STAND CAN BE SUSTAINED, THE UK IS OBVIOUSLY IN LESS DANGER OF BEING SINGLED OUT FOR ATTACK. IT ADDS, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS "MUCH TO BE HOPED" THAT HMG HAS A CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR USE IN THE LIKELY EVENT THAT THE COMMUNITY ONCE AGAIN SPLITS APART. IT ARGUES THAT IN "POLITICAL TERMS" THE UK HAS LITTLE TO LOSE IN ADOPTING A MORE FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE. "THE DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT THE COMMON FUND GOES AHEAD IS BEING TAKEN IN WASHINGTON, NOT IN LONDON."

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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Remarks:
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